

personal experience shows a more appropriate name would be the Worker Coercion Act."

He talks about the union officials and how they came to the company to try to get them to join the union through what they call Card Check without a secret ballot.

He said, "After this first attempt to organize our shop failed, the UAW changed tactics and sent in a whole new crew. At that point, it became clear to all of us that the UAW was going to do whatever was necessary to get the required number of signatures.

"The entire time they were constantly badgering us to sign the cards. I refused to sign the card every time they asked, and I know that many of my colleagues shared my sentiment. But none of that mattered to the UAW, because the pressure did not let up.

"In fact, one day, an official approached me again claiming 50 percent of the plant had signed, so now I was going to have to sign the card to 'get my information in the system.' I signed the card because I thought I had to."

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I didn't learn until later that even then, I should not have been forced to sign the card.

In the end, the UAW did succeed in organizing our plant, but I thought they succeeded only because of their confrontational tactics and not because the majority of our workers wanted UAW representation.

So immediately, after the union came in, I began a decertification effort. The only reason I was able to fight back was because other Dana Corporation employees in Ohio appealed to the National Labor Relations Board after facing aggression from the UAW, and the NLRB decided that workers should be allowed to seek decertification.

Of course, the UAW responded to my effort by increasing the pressure, and even started visiting me at my home, and my coworkers. Despite their intimidation, my coworkers and I voted to decertify the UAW 45 days after the Card Check drive in a secret ballot. I believe the results of the secret ballot election showed the true free choice of my coworkers regarding UAW representation. We didn't want the UAW representation that was foisted on us through Card Check.

At the end of the day, the voice of the worker needs to be considered. Union officials say they speak for the workers, and they say passage of the Card Check bill is needed to give workers a free choice. But the only way to give workers a free choice is the way we vote in this country, and that's to give them a secret ballot. If they want to join the union, they should be able to join the union through a secret ballot. But if they don't want to join the union, they should not be coerced into joining the union by signing a card. They should have the right, as every

American citizen does, to a secret vote on whether or not they want to be employed in a union shop. Now, if they don't want to do that, they shouldn't have to vote for it.

And that's exactly what the gentleman went through and all of his coworkers. And after they went through it and were forced to join the union, they found out they could have a secret ballot, they did a secret ballot, and they threw the union out.

I'm not an anti-union person, but there ought to be a free choice for people to join the union or not to join it, and they should not be coerced by Card Check.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Christine Sarbanes and offer my heartfelt condolences to former Senator Sarbanes and our colleague, JOHN SARBANES, and the entire Sarbanes family. They have lost a cherished loved one, and our State of Maryland has lost a good, kind and gracious friend.

Christine Sarbanes was a dedicated wife and loving mother who worked tirelessly with her husband to serve their beloved State of Maryland. She was an educator, improving the lives of her students with her incredible enthusiasm and her intellect, which she brought to the classroom every single day. Christine Sarbanes believed with every fiber of her body and her being that we all have the potential to be great, and she channeled her passion into a career in education which touched the lives of thousands of Marylanders.

I will always remember Christine Sarbanes as a pillar of strength and the embodiment of grace. She accompanied her husband and family on countless Labor Day, Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades that she faithfully participated in as the spouse of a Member of Congress. Charming her way through the crowd, stopping to share her special concern with young people in our great State, she had a special eye for young people, and young people came to her and understood that this was a special person who cared about them. Whether it was in Baltimore at a bull roast or a crab feast in Crisfield or a folk festival in Takoma Park, Christine Sarbanes felt at home, and she made all the people she touched feel special. Her loss is felt not only by her family and friends, but by the thousands of lives in Maryland and around the country that she touched and the countless others she inspired.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Christine Sarbanes. Her kindness and legacy of public service serves as an example to all of us, and she will be deeply missed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

VETERANS' HEALTHCARE FACILITIES/COMMEMORATING EARTH HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today deeply concerned about yesterday's reports regarding nearly 10,000 of our Nation's veterans who may have been exposed to HIV and other communicable diseases at Veteran's Administration hospitals. Like those veterans and their families, I'm shocked and appalled that this could have happened. Our veterans deserve better.

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of meeting with the new VA Secretary, Eric Shinseki, at the North Chicago VA Hospital to discuss improving care for our veterans. We've heard a lot about change in the past several months. Well, we have the duty to change our VA health system so reports of occurrences like we heard earlier this week never happen again. This means taking a serious look at every option to improve our veterans' care.

One option is right in my backyard. It is actually in my good friend from Illinois, Mrs. HALVORSON's district. There's a hospital named Silver Cross that will be moving to a new location in 2012. The facility that they are leaving has an emergency room that was built in 2006 and a specialty care wing that is less than 7 years old.

Instead of being opportunistic and selling the facility to the highest bidder, the hospital formed a Healthy Community Commission, whose focus is to give back to the Will County community. Our veterans are at the top of their list, and I commend them for that.

I look forward to working with Secretary Shinseki, Congresswoman HALVORSON and Members of both sides of the aisle to explore this and other options to make sure that our veterans never again have to put up with inadequate care.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, March 28, 2009, at 8:30 p.m. millions of people around the world will join together to turn off their lights for 1 hour, Earth Hour, to raise awareness about climate change. Communities, individuals, businesses and organizations will turn off non-essential lighting and cast a virtual vote for global education, awareness and action on this important issue.

Earth Hour began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia where more than 2.2 million people turned off their lights. Last year, World Wildlife Fund took Earth Hour global and more than 50 million